

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODNEY ARDELL WELLS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rodney Ardeell Wells. Rodney passed away on December 8, 2020. Rodney was a veteran of the United States Navy, a father, grandfather, friend, and a husband to his best friend, Sherril.

Rodney was born on July 26, 1955 in Topeka, Kansas and was raised in Compton, California. As he got older, Rodney had the urge to serve the United States Navy. From 1973 to 2003, Rodney served active duty for more than 20 of those years, at sea.

After serving in the Navy 12 years as Command Master Chief on the USS *Shiloh*, USS *Pearl Harbor*, and Chief of the Boat on the USS *Pogy*, Rodney attended college. He graduated with a degree in Mechanized Agriculture and a B.S. in psychology from Reedley College.

Rodney worked at the Veterans Affairs Central California Health Care System in Fresno, California as a Boiler Plant Operator. Rodney was liked by all of the people he had the pleasure of meeting. He was a leader, wise, and a caring individual who was ready to help. Rodney continued his giving back to the community through helping other veterans like himself at the hospital, but as well as helped to grow food.

When he was not working at the hospital, Rodney would grow seasonal varieties of fruits, herbs, and vegetables. Rancho de Rodney founded in 2009, grew heirloom and cherry tomatoes, hot and sweet peppers, carrots, thyme, sage, radishes, and more. In 2014 Rancho de Rodney was certified as organic by the CCOF. He participated in farmers' markets at Fresno Kaiser, True Value Hardware in Oakhurst and the Peddler's Corner in Coarsegold.

As time went on, Rodney changed focus. They were growing food not to sell, but for donation. A disabled veteran owned business, Rodney and his wife Sherril moved towards a non-profit status. Their love for their community and those in need were evident. They were known to help St. Benedict Catholic Worker on distributing their fresh produce to families and individuals. Rodney was also involved with African American Farmers of California headquartered in Fresno. Before his passing, Rodney spent his last Saturday with his fellow veterans at the African American Farmers of California demonstration site working on the vegetables he grew for the Catholic Worker.

Rodney was a proud descendent of members of the Civil War's U.S. Colored Troops and the Cherokee Freedom. He was a friend to many in his life and evolved his passion to giving back to others with his wife by his side.

He is survived by his wife, Sherril, sister Deborah, daughter Charletha Harris, grandchildren and greatgranddaughter.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Rodney Ardeell Wells. His service and contributions to the nations and State of California will be missed. I join his family and friends in celebrating Rodney's life.

REMEMBERING MARILYNN JANINE DENHOLM

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Marilyn Janine Denholm, originally of Niles, Ohio, who passed away on Thursday, June 24 at the age of 71.

She was born in 1950, the daughter of Fred and Mary (Colla) Guerra. Marilyn was married to her husband Dave for nearly 45 years. She had 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and extended family and friends with whom she cherished spending time.

Marilynn grew up in Niles, Ohio, and graduated from Niles McKinley High School in 1968. She earned her BA in Elementary Education from Youngstown State University (YSU) in 1972 where she was also a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) sorority. She earned her MA in Guidance and Counseling from YSU in 1978. Marilyn spent 13 years in education in Ohio and 30 years in education in Gaston County, NC. Mrs. Denholm loved being a Guidance Counselor at Gardner Park Elementary where she was able to help thousands of children.

Marilynn was an active member of the ZTA Alumni group and recently received her 50-year alumni pin. She also volunteered with the Blumenthal Performing Arts for 20 years.

Survivors include her husband, David; children Kristine (Seth Thompson) of Phoenix, AZ; David (Nichole) of Merritt Island, FL; and Victoria of Madrid, Spain; grandchildren David, Hannah, William and Henry Denholm, and Nora Thompson; and brother Fred (Gretchen) Guerra of Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Her parents Fred and Mary Guerra preceded her in death.

I am honored to have called Marilyn my Godmother. She was an incredible woman that dedicated her life to helping others, and I was lucky enough to have personally known how truly kind her spirit was. Throughout her life as an educator, she touched countless lives of the children that she taught. My condolences go out to her family and friends. She will be dearly missed.

INTRODUCING THE INVESTING IN COMMONSENSE BALLISTIC MISSILES (ICBM) ACT OF 2021

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, the Investing in Commonsense Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) Act of 2021 bill will pause the development of the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) Intercontinental Ballistic Missile program, the planned replacement to the current Minuteman III missile, and the associated W87-1 nuclear warhead. Additionally, it requires the service life of the currently deployed Minuteman III missiles to be extended until 2040—something that is both technically feasible and more cost-efficient.

The world is witnessing a new nuclear arms race, and this one is extremely dangerous as tensions rise between the Great Powers. As the United States, Russia, and China rush to modernize their nuclear arsenals, the trip wire is growing more taut. Observation and communication satellites and systems are increasingly vulnerable to attacks. All three countries are fielding stealth and hypersonic nuclear delivery systems designed to evade detection. The risk of a false alarm or a political miscalculation has always haunted the nuclear landscape and they do even more today.

As long as nuclear weapons exist we must have a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent. The simultaneous modernization efforts across all three legs of the nuclear triad are an unnecessary and costly way to achieve our deterrent. The modernization includes the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD), the B-21 bomber, the Columbia-class submarine, the Long-Range Standoff (LRSO) air-launched cruise missile, the sea launched nuclear cruise missile, and new nuclear warheads. The costs are extraordinary: a 2017 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report estimated that the 30-year cost of nuclear weapons spending would be \$1.2 trillion (\$1.7 trillion adjusted for inflation). As the Government Accountability Office recently noted, the current plan to modernize every part of the arsenal at the same time is a recipe for schedule delays and cost overruns.

The ICBM leg of the Triad deserves special attention. The total price tag to procure the GBSD is projected to be at least \$95 billion, and \$264 billion when accounting for total life-cycle costs. A GBSD pause will help defray short-term costs for the Air Force and will also defer a long-term expenditure. Additionally, the W87-1, the warhead that is being designed for the GBSD, will cost at least \$12 billion to build—and is not part of the estimated GBSD procurement cost of \$95 billion. To build new warhead cores for the W87-1, the National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) is expanding plutonium pit production, which will cost at least another \$9 billion through the late 2020s according to the Congressional Budget Office.

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